



Capitol Region Watershed District

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For Immediate Release

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Ground Breaking Project at Como Park Senior High School Protects Como Lake

Saint Paul, Minn. (June 26, 2017) – Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD), Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) and Saint Paul Public Works are teaming up to build a project at Como Park Senior High School that will capture and clean more than 6.5 million gallons of polluted runoff annually. Construction began earlier this month.

CRWD has worked closely with SPPS and Public Works to build numerous large-scale stormwater management systems in the past. The effort at Como Park Senior High School is unique because it represents the first time all three organizations have collaborated on a single project. By working together, the partnership can build a larger and more cost-effective stormwater management system that cleans more water.

Plans for the new system include a series of large pipes with thousands of holes that capture runoff and allow it to soak slowly into the ground. Public Works has successfully diverted stormwater to similar systems in the past, but moving stormwater across property lines to another landowner, in this case SPPS, has required creative problem-solving to establish clear roles and responsibilities.

“CRWD has appreciated the commitment shown by SPPS and Public Works to be innovative in our approach to managing stormwater at Como Park Senior High School. This project will become a model for how we can work together in the future to meet our collective goals, stated Nate Zwonitzer, CRWD Project Manager.”

“Saint Paul Public Works’ Sewer Division is pleased to be a part of this effort to divert run-off from the storm sewers,” Stated Bruce Elder, Saint Paul Public Work Sewer Division Manager. “Managing storm water in a collaborative fashion is more cost-effective and allows for a larger scale treatment facility than would otherwise be possible.”

CRWD received a \$1.76 million grant award from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, with funds from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, to improve water quality in Como Lake and Lake McCarrons. A portion of the grant, along with contributions from all three partners, will be used to cover project costs, estimated at \$600,000.

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